

JORDAN TIMES

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New craft to link with Salyut

MOSCOW, Jan. 10 (R). — Russia today launched a new spaceship, Soyuz-27, with a two-man crew aboard, the news agency TASS reported. Observers said the new mission, was likely to link up with an orbiting space station, Salyut-6, manned by two cosmonauts for the past month. If successful, the rendezvous in space will be the first in the Soviet Union's 20-year space programme to feature two space ferries and an orbital station. The Soviet Union's two latest cosmonauts were Colonel Vladimir Dzhanibekov and Engineer Oleg Makarov. They will be joining cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Georgy Grechko. TASS said the flight programme of today's mission, included "the conducting on board of joint research and experiments by the crews of two space-ships."

Four Rhodesian whites killed

SALISBURY, Jan. 10 (R). (censored) — Four white civilians, including an elderly woman, her son and grandson, have been killed by black nationalist guerrillas near Salisbury on the edge of an area where security forces have been hunting a group of raiders. Military headquarters said they were killed last night on a farm at Hartley, 90 km. southwest of the capital and 60 km. from the Lake McIlwaine pleasure park, centre of a widespread manhunt since Saturday. A white woman and her daughter were shot dead by guerrillas on a farm there on Saturday afternoon as troops and police combed the area following reports that "suspicious persons" had been seen in the game park.

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King Hussein, Boumedienne discuss Arab situation

AMMAN, Jan. 10 (Agencies). — His Majesty King Hussein and Algerian President Houari Boumedienne today held two working sessions of talks dealing with the current Arab situation and ways of bolstering bilateral relations between the two countries, the Jordan News Agency reported.

President Boumedienne, who was on his first visit to Jordan, has already called at Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, South and North Yemen, Qatar and Kuwait.

The Algerian president flew from Kuwait where he was reported to have told its leaders that Arabs should oppose "all attempts to undermine Arab solidarity and render all Arab summit conference discussions less effective."

His remarks were taken as a reference to President Anwar Sadat's unilateral approach to Israel.

The talks here which began

immediately after Mr. Boumedienne's arrival were continued during a working luncheon given by King Hussein in honour of the Algerian head of state. The talks were attended from the Jordanian side by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Premier Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Minister of Education Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim.

On the Algerian side there were Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Bouteflika, Minister of Transport Ahmad Dirayeh, President Boumedienne's adviser Dr. Ahmed Taleb Al Ibrahim and other officials.

President Boumedienne flew to Damascus this evening on the tenth leg of his tour of Arab capitals.

In a statement to reporters before the departure of the Algerian president, King Hussein expressed his happiness at President Boumedienne's visit to Jordan to discuss Arab affairs in the present circumstances.

President Boumedienne on his part said his visit to Jordan was "to exchange viewpoints with His Majesty King Hussein in the present stage through which the Arab nation is passing."

President Boumedienne arrived hours after South Yemeni Prime Minister Ali Nasser Mohammad in Damascus. He was greeted by President Hafez Assad, who was due to host a dinner in honour of the Algerian and South Yemeni leaders tonight.

The South Yemeni prime minister told reporters at Damascus airport that his talks with Syrian leaders would deal with moves to confront "Sadat's surrender steps and Zionist and imperialist plans."



His Majesty King Hussein and President Houari Boumedienne of Algeria take the salute at Amman Airport on Tuesday after the Algerian leader arrived in Amman. (JNA photo)

Begin adds 2 Likud members to cabinet

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (R). — Prime Minister Menachem Begin added two new ministers to his 17-member cabinet today after the opposition described the move as a "politically cynical act."

As required by Israeli law, the prime minister sought Knesset approval for his appointment of Mr. Haim Landau and Mr. Moshe Nissim of the dominant Likud Bloc, as ministers without portfolio.

The move was made to maintain the Likud's balance of power within the ruling coalition government, which includes the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) and the National Religious Party (NRP).

Recalling the Likud's election campaign promise last spring to limit its cabinet to 12 ministers, Labour Party leader Haim Barlev, former Commerce and Industry Minister, charged in the Knesset debate that the new appointments were "further proof of the Likud wenching on its promises and a politically cynical act."

After a three hour debate, the Knesset approved the nominations by a 46-29 vote.

Mr. Begin today denied press

reports that Israel was considering bartering land in the southern Negev Desert for Jewish settlements it has established in occupied Sinai.

He was speaking to newsmen after ceremonies marking the opening of Israel's year-long observance of its 30th anniversary. Israel's national day will be celebrated on May 11 but anniversary activities are to be spread out throughout the year.

The reports of a possible territorial exchange in the southern Negev were sparked by the prime minister's statement to a party meeting on Sunday that if President Sadat continues his rigid rejection of Israeli settlement proposals in the Sinai, Israel might withdraw its peace plan and suggest territorial exchanges along the old international frontier.

Mr. Begin also told newsmen that Israel had received no official demand from Egypt for payment of compensation for oil Israel has pumped from wells in occupied territory since 1967.

According to press reports, President Sadat has said he intends demanding \$2 billion in payment for the oil used.

Dayan expects "positive developments" for peace

ROME, Jan. 10 (R). — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan told Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti today that he expected positive developments from Middle East peace moves.

"He did not hide the difficulties on the road to peace," an aide of Signor Andreotti said afterwards. "But he expressed confidence about positive developments from the negotiations."

Most of the 50-minute meeting was devoted to the Middle East and Mr. Dayan's exposition of the latest moves.

The Israeli minister said he expected the work of the Israeli-Egyptian military and political committees, due to start meetings this week in Cairo

and next week in Jerusalem respectively, would last for about two months, the aide added.

Mr. Dayan expressed the appreciation of his government for Italy's quick support of President Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel in November, the aide said.

Signor Andreotti told the foreign minister that Italy felt there was a great need for progress at this stage and this need major efforts by both sides.

Any failure to reach agreement at this point would produce deep disappointment and "serious consequences," he added.

Mr. Dayan, on a four-day visit which includes an audience with Pope Paul on Thursday, later paid a courtesy call on President Giovanni Leone.

Papal concern for Jerusalem

The Vatican's Foreign Minister, Msgr. Agostino Casaroli was to confer with Mr. Dayan today to prepare for the talks with the Pope.

There were signs that the Pope hoped the coming discussion would finally lead to concrete results concerning the future of Jerusalem.

Kuwait paper confirms Soviet arms shipments to Syria

KUWAIT, Jan. 10 (AFP). — An official Syrian source has acknowledged that Syria has started to receive sophisticated Soviet weapons, the Kuwaiti newspaper "Al Qabas" reported today.

But Western press reports about this were "considerably exaggerated," the source was quoted as saying.

The arms were arriving via an air lift and by sea, he said.

Saudi foreign minister reports close King Khaled-Shah accord

RIYADH, Jan. 10 (AFP). — Saudi Arabia and Iran are in close agreement about the Middle East, the Saudi foreign minister said after what he called exhaustive talks here today between King Khaled and the Shah of Iran, who later flew home to Tehran. The Shah, speaking in Egypt earlier today, expressed his "backing and support" for President Anwar Sadat and said "The voice of Egypt is the voice of reason."

The king and the Shah, leaders of the world's two biggest oil exporting nations, also expressed "an identity of views" on oil policy, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said.

Their talks further included discussion of the situation in the Horn of Africa. The two countries have broadly similar policies regarding this area, but no statement was made on the subject after the discussion today.

The Shah flew in today from Aswan, Upper Egypt, where he conferred with President Sadat during a 24-hour visit. Before leaving, he told journalists at a joint press conference with Mr. Sadat that Egypt had acted "in a very dignified manner" and that "the ball is now in the other (Israeli) court." He added that the holy places of Islam in Jerusalem "must be run by Muslims."

In the light of these statements, observers here described as important the Saudi foreign minister's remark that "a concordance of views" had emerged in "an exhaustive examination of the Middle East situation" by the Shah and King Khaled.

Joint press conference in Aswan

At the joint press conference with the Shah in Aswan, President Sadat told newsmen that Egypt would claim about \$2 billion as an indemnity for the oil pumped from wells in the Sinai by Israel from 1967-75.

Asked about Israeli settlements in the Sinai, he said "I am not ready to join in this battle of statements because of the very simple fact that peace can not be achieved through building settlements on other people's land. I don't intend to join in this battle."

He denied, in answer to another question, that Israel Premier Menachem Begin had threatened to withdraw his peace plan if Egypt did not allow Israeli settlements in Sinai.

President Sadat said it had been a great moment for him to meet the Shah of Iran and thanked him for coming "to make it quite clear to the whole world that we are really working together towards peace and towards prosperity for our people."

The Shah said: "Our role is to talk to all those who want to listen. We can only talk the voice of reason. I am glad to say that the voice of Egypt is the voice of reason."

While in Egypt, the Shah came under fire from Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He accused the Iranian monarch

of working with Egypt to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state.

Decisive role for the Shah?

Saudi Arabia, while not openly too hostile to Mr. Sadat's decision to negotiate directly with Israel, expressed "dismay" when he went to Jerusalem in November. Observers then said this was a strong term for Saudi Arabia's normally very reserved diplomats.

For the subsequent two months, Riyadh's position on Mr. Sadat's peace moves has been shrouded in silence. It took President Carter's visit to Cairo, after his talks in Saudi Arabia, for Mr. Sadat to be able to announce that Riyadh was backing Egyptian policy.

Almost simultaneously, Saudi Crown Prince Fahd officially confirmed this support.

For Cairo, Saudi support is vital, particularly as the problem of the Palestinians and the future of the occupied West Bank have made the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations more difficult.

Mr. Sadat and King Khaled seem to agree that the status

of Jerusalem should revert to what it was before the June 1967 war, but they appear to differ over the Palestinian problem.

On this point, it is believed, the Shah may play a determining role and propose an acceptable compromise formula. Observers have noticed a major nuance in Mr. Sadat's remarks on Palestinian self-determination. Until recently, Mr. Sadat confined himself to demanding "formal links" between an independent Palestinian state and Jordan, but was unbending on the self-determination issue.

But after his meeting with Mr. Carter he expressed the view that his disagreement with Mr. Carter was settled when Mr. Carter spoke of the Palestinians "participation" in determining their future.

The Shah had a trump card in his mission as far as both Egypt and Saudi Arabia are concerned: His recent expression of support for Somalia against Ethiopia. The situation in the Horn of Africa, in particular communist influence in black Africa, is next to the Middle East, the principal concern of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Waldheim in Tehran for talks with Shah

TEHRAN, Jan. 10 (R). — U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said today a settlement of the Middle East problem was not possible without a satisfactory solution of the Palestinian issue.

"Without a satisfactory solution of the Palestinian problem I do not expect a global solution of the Middle East problem is possible, he told journalists at Mehrabad airport on arrival on a four-day official visit.

Dr. Waldheim described President Anwar Sadat's trip to Israel as "very dramatic and most important historically."

"We have now to see whether it will be possible in the light of the new developments to achieve concrete results," he added.

Replying to a question, Dr. Waldheim said the reconvening of the Geneva peace talks was not possible for the time being in the light of the new developments.

But he hoped that the new peace efforts would lead to a Geneva conference where all the parties would be present.

Dr. Waldheim said he would be exchanging views on interna-

tional political and economic problems with the Shah. Foreign Minister Abbas Ali Khalatbari and other Iranian leaders during his stay in Iran.

He said Iran was playing an important and active role in the United Nations and was a strong supporter of the organisation's efforts for peace and better understanding.

Ecevit predicts hard times: Page 6

On the Cyprus issue, Dr. Waldheim said he had "very fruitful and constructive" talks with the new Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

He said Mr. Ecevit had told him that after his confirmation as prime minister by parliament he intended to initiate new proposals, on territorial and constitutional aspects, for inter-communal talks in Cyprus.

Dr. Waldheim said he will be visiting Cyprus and Greece after Tehran to discuss the Cyprus problem, and hoped that the inter-communal talks would be resumed in February or the beginning of March at the latest.

Swedish minister says PLO participation is essential for peace

By Ian Kellas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 10. — "In as much as the PLO is in fact the most authoritative spokesman of the Palestinians of course their participation (in a Middle East settlement) is essential," Sweden's Vice-Foreign Minister Svante Astrom said in an exclusive interview with the Jordan Times tonight.

After visiting the Baqa'a refugee camp at the end of a four-day official visit to Jordan, Sweden's senior diplomat spoke of the "great urgency" of finding a political solution for the Palestinians.

"For a settlement to be just and lasting," Mr. Astrom said, "we think three conditions have to be fulfilled." He listed these as: the withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied territories; the "recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people... in other words recognition of their right also to establish an independent state which lives in peace with Israel"; and lastly the establishment of guarantees for the "security of all countries in the area."

Palestinians entitled to their own state

"If they choose to create an independent state that decision of theirs should be honoured," Mr. Astrom said.

He went on to say that if President Sadat's initiative were "met by equally courageous and imaginative moves on the part of the other parties, then it should lead to a process of real peace."

(Continued on p. 2)

Weizman to meet Sadat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (AFP). — Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman will hold talks in Aswan tomorrow with President Anwar Sadat, Israeli radio reported today.

Quoting a reliable source, the radio said Gen. Weizman would fly to Aswan in Mr. Sadat's private plane on the Egyptian leader's invitation shortly after arriving in Cairo.

Gen. Weizman is to head an Israeli delegation at the Israeli-Egyptian military committee due to open talks in Cairo tomorrow.

The talks will be held under unprecedented security arrangements and newsmen will not even be allowed to cover the arrival of the Israeli team.

Egyptian military sources said there would be a formal opening session at Taba palace in the Cairo suburbs — where Egypt housed its operations room in the October 1973 war with Israel — after which the two delegations would move to "a certain military location" for their working session.

AMC general manager tells Jordan Times New Arab Mining Co. investments include Aqaba fertiliser plant

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 10. — The multinational Arab Mining Company (AMC) has now asked its 12 participating member state shareholders to pay up an additional ten per cent of the company's authorised capital of 120 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$400 million) to finance a series of new investments approved at an AMC board meeting here last week.

AMC General Manager Thabet Taher told the Jordan Times in an interview here today at the company's headquarters that one of the decisions adopted by the board was to take a five per cent equity shareholding in the capital of the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company Ltd, which is building the \$325 million phosphate-based fertiliser plant at Aqaba.

The fertiliser company's capital is now set at \$100 million, which means a \$5 million equity participation for AMC.

The decision to invest in the fertiliser project, will be seen as a timely boost to the Jordanian scheme, which is still negotiating to find a new technical partner to replace the American company Agricor, and which is now also holding talks with international commercial banks with a view to raising the last \$40 million required to complete the total financing package for the Aqaba plant.

Investments in other Arab countries

The other decisions taken by the AMC board included:

— A 25 per cent participation in the equity capital of an expanding copper project in Morocco, whose exact equity value is yet to be determined;

— An agreement in principle to take part

in setting up a new joint venture mining company in North Yemen, to exploit various mineral rocks, such as gypsum, glass sands and feldspar, among others. The AMC will take 25 per cent of the new company's capital, the North Yemen government will take 51 per cent and the balance will probably be offered to private investors in North Yemen.

An AMC technical team will travel to Sana'a next week to conclude the specific agreement to set up the new company, Mr. Taher said.

— Firm approval of a previously tentative agreement with the Somali government to set up a joint company to exploit mineral deposits in Somalia, though the Somalis are keeping the details of the mineral deposits a secret for the time being.

The ten per cent capital call-up will bring to 15 per cent, or some \$60 million, the total paid-up capital of the Arab Mining Company, which was established in mid-1976 under the aegis of the Arab Economic Unity Council of the Arab League.

Morocco has also notified the company of its intention to become the 13th member state shareholder of AMC, Mr. Taher revealed, and Tunisia has also recently indicated its desire to join.

Mr. Taher said that it was "most important and significant" that Morocco would join the AMC, "because Morocco is the most advanced Arab country in the mining field, and its participation will enable us to coordinate activities with them and to benefit from their experience in the field of mining."

Mr. Taher added that an AMC delegation would travel to Sudan in the very near future to carry out further talks about the possibility of AMC investments in mining schemes there.

Previously, the AMC had invested in the Dead Sea potash extraction project here in Jordan, and a lead foundry scheme in Morocco.

Hammami killers based in France, Paris daily reports

PARIS, Jan. 10 (AFP). — French police are convinced that the men who assassinated Palestinian representative Said Hammami in London on Jan. 4 are based in France, the newspaper France Soir reported here today.

Police have intercepted letter bombs posted in Strasbourg, France, and addressed to the Egyptian and Syrian embassies in France and to Arabs considered to be conciliatory towards Israel by Palestinian extremists, the mass-circulation daily said.

The bombs were detected by magnetic inspection devices.

The letter bombs were reportedly feared to be forerunners of assassination attempts against relatively moderate Arabs such as Mr. Hammami's counterparts in France — Palestine Liberation Organisation representative Ezzedine Kalak and his assistant Ibrahim So-

uwat, Jan. 10 (AFP).

— An official Syrian source has acknowledged that Syria has started to receive sophisticated Soviet weapons, the Kuwaiti newspaper "Al Qabas" reported today.

But Western press reports about this were "considerably exaggerated," the source was quoted as saying.

The arms were arriving via an air lift and by sea, he said.

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Responsible Editor: MOHAMAD AMAD

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan
 Telephones: 67171-2-3-4
 Tlx: 1487 Al Rai JO, Cables: JORTIMES, Amman Jordan

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Ignorance, speed, indifference, congestion are causes of increasing road accidents

Traffic congestion and accidents are on the increase in Jordan. To investigate the causes and discover what the authorities are doing about the situation AHMAD MAJDOUBEH interviewed Col. Maher Nabulsi, Traffic Adviser to the Public Security Department, Mr. Akram Hindiye, Director of the Traffic Engineering Department at the Municipality of Amman and Mr. Sami Habiby, Chairman of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, and Chairman of the Middle East Insurance Company. In this first part of a three part series we look at the causes of accidents and congestion in Amman. A fourth, concluding article, will report on driving education plans of the Royal Automobile Club.

The number of traffic accidents in Jordan is increasing rapidly, Col. Maher Nabulsi, Traffic Advisor at the Public Security Department said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

In 1976, the number of traffic accidents in the Kingdom totaled 6873, of which 5482 accidents took place during the day-time and 1391 took place during the night-time.

Those accidents were of three types: turn-over accidents (689), collision accidents (3967) and accidents involving pedestrians (221). As a result 327 people died and 4011 people were injured.

In comparison with traffic accidents which took place in the past five years, the number of the 1976 accidents was higher. In 1972, the number of accidents totaled 4106, the dead 245 and the injured 1969.

In 1973 the number of accidents totaled 4312, the dead 283 and the injured 2520. In 1974 the number of accidents totaled 4911, the dead 285 and the injured 3304. And in 1975 the number of accidents totaled 5422, the dead 258 and the injured 3608.

Recent study

These accidents have been the subject of a recent study by the Public Security Department, the Traffic Engineering Department, the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, and other institutions interested in traffic. In consequence,

various reasons for these accidents have been pointed out.

The first reason is the indifference by both drivers and pedestrians to traffic laws. The carelessness of some drivers and their inattention when they drive their vehicles may cause several accidents. Some drivers, Col. Nabulsi mentions as an example, know that they should use the indicators when they stop or turn left or right; yet they do not use them - simply because they do not care.

Some pedestrians are also indifferent to traffic laws. They know, for example, that when the traffic signal gives the red light, they should not cross the street; yet they do, especially when the street is apparently empty of vehicles - which may end in a dreadful accident.

The second reason is the speed factor. Many drivers are found of hysterical speed, especially when the traffic police are not present. Such drivers are easily taken by surprise when they are faced with an abrupt incident; they lose control over their vehicles, which may end in an accident.

The third reason is the lack of traffic knowledge among people. Mr. Akram Hindiye, Director of Traffic Engineering Department at the Municipality of Amman, puts great emphasis on this factor. It is strange, he says, to find that a big number of people, even university graduates, know little about the traffic laws.

Lack playgrounds

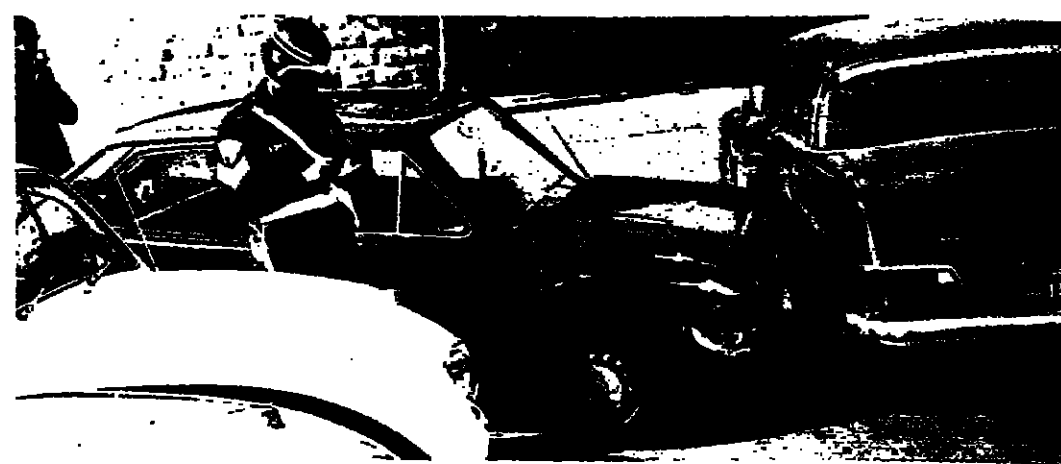
Children also know almost nothing about the traffic laws. They, because of the lack of playgrounds in many parts of the heavily populated areas in the Kingdom, are forced to play in the streets, which increases the number of accidents. The number of accidents for those under the age of 17 for the year 1976 totaled 495. As a result, 430 small, innocent children, struck by vehicles, were killed. They knew nothing about the traffic laws, because they were not taught anything.

The fourth reason is the current traffic congestion. Amman nowadays is overcrowded with people and automobiles. The bus, for example, needs fifty minutes to travel from Marka airport to the centre of Amman. Whereas, when the road is not crowded with vehicles, the bus doesn't need more than 5-10 minutes to reach the same place.

To study the effect of traffic congestion on accidents, Col. Nabulsi says, one should take the following factors into consideration. These factors are also the causes of the congestion.

The first factor is the population explosion which has lately affected many cities in Jordan. The inhabitants of Amman are increasing at a rapid speed and most of them live in small, over-populated areas.

The second factor is the increase in the number of private and public vehicles in Amman. The number of vehicles in the Kingdom totals nearly 80,000. There are 50,000 vehicles in Amman alone - more than half of the whole number.



One more statistic for the books

Moreover, eleven thousand vehicles in 1977 were licensed in Amman.

No parking places

What adds to the problem, Mr. Hindiye says, is the lack of parking garages for these vehicles. A car owner, for example, who travels downtown to buy something faces the problem of finding a place to park his car.

He sometimes has to spend most of his time looking for an empty place, for the streets are always crowded with vehicles.

Thus, he either stops his car in a far place and loses more time, or in a place where parking is forbidden and receives a ticket from the traffic police in return.

Thirdly, most of the streets and the pavements in Amman are narrow. In some main streets, like King Talal and Basman Streets for example, the pedestrians are forced to leave the crowded pavements and walk in the streets, which are also overcrowded with vehicles.

Related to this is the fact that all the vehicles travelling downtown from the various mountains in Amman have to follow a limited, insufficient number of streets.

For example, people who live at Marka, Mahatta, Jabal Nasser, Nadi Al Sebaq, Jabal Taj and Jabal Hashemi have

Some traffic signals no longer useful

Moreover, some traffic signals are no longer useful.

AMMAN, Jan. 10 (JNA). — A meeting chaired by Director of Public Security Maj. Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat today discussed ways of enforcing regulations on speed limits on the roads. The authorities concerned have been instructed to take the necessary arrangements to prepare the required cadres and radar cars in conformity with the new regulation.

At the same time the Ministry of Public Works in cooperation with the Amman municipality will erect signposts along the roads in and outside Amman indicating the speed limits. Controls will include radar, police cars, motor-cycles and police posts on the roads.

Some of them, like the one at Nasha Square, Col. Nabulsi says, have to be changed because they are no longer able to control the traffic movement.

The traffic congestion, traffic

officials agree, reaches its climax first during the peak hours and secondly during the summer holiday. Work begins in government and public institutions at 8 a.m. Most schools begin at 7-8 a.m. Therefore, all officers, students and workers leave their houses between 6-8 a.m.

At the same time, they leave work between 2-3 p.m. This is why around these hours the streets are seen teeming with people and vehicles.

During the summer holiday most of the Jordanians who work outside Jordan, especially those working in the Gulf states, take their leave. They come to spend the holiday among their relatives here in Amman. They do not, however, come alone - only a few of them come by air.

Most of them bring their private cars with them. This is why Jordan, during the period from June until December, is overcrowded with people and automobiles.

This is also why the number of traffic accidents reaches its highest peak during this period.

Col. Nabulsi says these factors, the causes of the traffic congestion, should be approached at a national level. All the institutions concerned in traffic should cooperate in finding solutions to these problems, to which the increase in the number of accidents is due.

An open letter to the Zablocki delegation

Dear friends:

For as long back as we can remember, we in the Arab World have had the consistent pleasure of welcoming American legislators who have come through the area on fact-finding missions of various degrees of intensity. We welcome the Zablocki delegation today, with a particular reminder to the delegation members that the bonds of friendship between the Arab people and the American people are longstanding and genuine ones, and bonds that have withstood the test of time.

Your visit here is part of the process that determines whether the American role in helping bring peace to the Middle East will be a success or a failure. The jury is still out on the matter. You will no doubt quickly learn during your talks with Arab leaders that the outline of a comprehensive and negotiated Arab-Israeli peace is clear and realistic. You will also find out very quickly that the major obstacle to that peace formula today is Israel's unwillingness to withdraw fully from the territories it occupied in 1967 and its unwillingness to accept the political reality of three million people who call themselves Palestinians.

We want you to know that the Arab people have placed much genuine faith in the United States, and in the ability of the American nation to see right and wrong in Palestine - as it finally saw right and wrong in Vietnam - and help make the difficult decisions which are the inescapable dictates of real peace. Those dictates are a full Israeli withdrawal and a recognition of Palestinian rights of self-determination. Your president has repeatedly stressed these two points, but your visit to us this week comes at a time when the Israelis refuse to withdraw from Arab lands or to allow the Palestinians to determine their own future. If you are serious about your nation's desire to help bring peace to the Middle East - and we believe you are - we suggest that peace can best be nurtured by your firmly asking the Israelis if they are willing to go along with the consensus of the entire world, and, if they are not, as they are not today, by asking yourselves what are the hard decisions for peace that are then thrust upon you, in your role as the economic, military and political lifeline of Israel?

We know these are difficult things to ponder, but then, among friends, difficult decisions are the test of friendship.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAY, on Tuesday, said since Israel has issued its "statement of intentions" it is not too early to predict the fate of the talks to be held by the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee as far as the future of occupied Arab territories, as well as the future of peace, is concerned. It is curious that Egypt is still offering Israel chances to prove its supposed goodwill when Israel clearly announces its plans to consolidate Jewish settlements inside occupied Egyptian territory, when Israel announces its real intentions and when the Cairo preparatory meetings turned out to be such a failure.

AL DUSTOUR said the Arab citizen looks with hope of deliverance from misery to Algerian President Houari Boumedienne's visit, on Tuesday, to Jordan. Only Arab solidarity and unified Arab action is able to challenge Israeli intransigence and any Arab cooperation is to be welcomed.

Swedish minister says PLO participation is essential for peace

(Continued from p. 1)

It was not for an outside party, however, to comment on the adequacy of the recent Israeli proposals.

Asked about Sweden's role in the peace-making process, Mr. Astrom conceded that it was marginal but "to the extent we confirm the principles which are contained in Resolution 242 we perform a service." Sweden he said "would not hesitate" to play its part in any U.N. involvement in a peace settlement.

Mr. Astrom, who is Secretary General of the Swedish Foreign Office, has already visited Iraq and Syria and leaves tonight for Egypt. I asked him if there were any obvious signs of a rapprochement among Arab states. He replied: "There are signs of a rapprochement between Iraq and Syria." "Evidently I hope that this rapprochement will also create a better atmosphere (in general)", he continued.

Mr. Astrom, however, declined to describe himself as either optimistic or pessimistic about the prospects of peace. The situation was still too fluid.

Asked whether there would be disastrous consequences if President Sadat's initiative were to fail, Mr. Astrom replied: "No; the consequences of renewed military conflict, which would be immeasurably more serious than at any other time in the past, will serve as a very efficient shield of prevention against another war."

Growing Swedish interests in Jordan

Mr. Astrom also outlined his country's interests in Jordan.

There is a certain amount of trade - mainly Jordanian agricultural products in exchange for Swedish machinery. Various Swedish firms are commercially engaged in development projects here, like VBB who are providing a consultant service with regard to Amman's water supply.

Although Sweden gives no bilateral aid to Jordan, it is the biggest contributor, after the U.S., to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and to UNRWA, both of which have important projects in Jordan.

With no permanent embassy office and a total of only about 40 residents, the Swedes can hardly be said to maintain a massive presence here. But as Mr. Astrom put it there is an "immense amount of good will on both sides." In talks with His Highness Crown Prince Hassan and ministers, Mr. Astrom and his small delegation have discussed a number of projects for the future, although nothing concrete has yet been settled.

Under review is the possibility of a joint industrial venture (probably directed towards the production of machinery) and of assistance in education and training (which would be concentrated mainly in the field of social services and labour relations).

Asked for his impressions of Jordan, Mr. Astrom said: "How shall I express my enthusiasm in diplomatic terms? ... I am very favourably impressed by the economic development that has taken place here; by the very high intellectual standards of the leaders and by the neat and orderly face of the capital."

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مكتبة الامم

National News Roundup

Agreement for 50,000 tons of grain from U.S. to Jordan

AMMAN, Jan. 10 (JNA). — The Minister of Supply Marwan Al Qasem signed an agreement at the Ministry today with the United States Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Thomas Pickering, under which the American government will provide Jordan with 50,000 tons of grain worth \$5.5 million. These quantities of grain, which will be paid for over a 2 1/2-year period, will be distributed to local flour mills to be sold to customers at a low price.

Chambers thank Crown Prince

AMMAN, Jan. 10 (JNA). — The Jordanian Chambers of Commerce today sent a cable to his Highness Crown Prince Hassan thanking him for his efforts in making a success of the tenth annual Conference of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Taiwanese delegation holds talks on commerce and industry

AMMAN, Jan. 10 (JNA). — Officials from the Chamber of Industry today discussed with an industrial delegation from Taiwan ways of strengthening commercial and industrial cooperation between the two countries. The Chinese delegation, which comprises 21 businessmen, arrived here last night on a three-day visit.

Green Jubilee planting in Aqaba to begin Jan. 15

AQABA, Jan. 10 (JNA). — The Green Jubilee Committee of Aqaba District, meeting under the governor, today decided to begin planting trees in the allocated site on Jan. 15. Sources at the district governorate said the planting is expected to last for one week, with 700 saplings being planted every day.

Construction materials complex for Yarmouk University

IRBID, Jan. 10 (JNA). — The Yarmouk University has begun construction of an industrial complex at the university's permanent site here. The complex will provide construction materials necessary for the university's infrastructure which is to be built on the site. A tender for the plan has been sent out by the university.

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Blizzards claim 8 lives in Greece

ATHENS, Jan. 10 (AFP). — The Greek authorities today declared a state of emergency in eight provinces where hundreds of villages have been isolated by heavy snow-falls and deprived of electricity in the cold spell.

Record rainfall douses Kuwait

KUWAIT, Jan. 10 (AFP). — Unprecedented rainfall since Sunday evening hit a record level of 24 mm in less than 48 hours here today.

The rain caused floods in parts of the capital, halting traffic.

From the beginning of winter to Jan. 6, 154.7 mm of rain fell on Kuwait. The average annual fall is 120 mm.

Econoscope

Industry: A majority of one sector

While attending some of the lively discussions taking place in the committees of the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce I could not escape noticing some interesting points.

The discussion concentrated mainly on the worries and cares of the industrial sector, not commerce. These worries seem to be too many. They relate to the following issues: Organizational measures, legislative measures, taxes and tariffs, marketing and exporting, and the availability of skilled manpower.

This range of problems seems to emanate from one large issue, namely, the transformation of Jordan from a services economy to a directly productive one.

In the process of transformation sacrifices have to be made and gains must be secured. The question is: Who is going to sacrifice what and for whom?

Industry branches off from the argument that Jordan is a small market and industry is still in the infant stage. Thus its success rests on securing the rights and privileges which help foster its development.

The government seems to be the one who stands to sacrifice the most.

It must offer tax and tariff concessions which will help decrease the financial burden.

It must also produce legal and organizational legislation that would eliminate problems which may crop up.

The government must take action in securing necessary labour whether from inside or

abroad to help carry out programmes. Moreover, the government must buy more from these industries, rather than buy from abroad.

On the other hand, the commercial and importing sector is expected to make sacrifices as well. They will have to face the fact that their imports will have to face harsher restrictions and higher tariff walls in order to replace these imports with locally produced commodities.

This kind of argument is not new. It has been hot in almost every private economy country which has put industry in the driver's seat and hoped that industry would lead the economy in the development path.

As a small developing country, Jordan must concede to the fact that development through industry requires sacrifices. Now, are those who are required to make them ready to make them?

This, however, lays the burden on the industrial sector. They must prove good their intentions. Society — including the consumer — is paying a lot in order to achieve a national objective.

Unless these industries start cooperating with each other, start improving the quality of their goods and reduce their cost, the privileges they ask for will be withdrawn.

Sacrifice can only be borne for a grace period by those who give it. Inflation and maldistribution of income cannot live with us forever.

Earthquakes become daily event in southern Philippines since Dec. 31

MANILA, Jan. 10 (AFP). — A series of earthquakes have been occurring almost daily for the past several days in the southern Philippine province of Agusan Del Sur, the Manila Weather Bureau reported today.

A spokesman said at least 20 tremors have been felt in Agusan, more than 800 kms. southeast of here, since last Dec.

31, inflicting damage to some school houses. Residents, he said, have begun to panic.

The spokesman said a team of seismologists have been dispatched to the area to investigate the occurrences whose origins could not immediately be determined.

The bureau likewise reported the occurrence of a series of quakes in the north-northeastern sector of the main island of Luzon since Jan. 6, the latest occurring at 8:25 p.m. (12:25 GMT) Monday.

The tremor of intensity 4 in the 9-point Rossi — Forel scale rocked Cagayan — Ilocos and Aparri, capital of Cagayan Province. The epicenter was placed at 561 kms. north-northeast of Manila.

Earthquake rocks Kuril Islands

NEW DELHI, Jan. 10 (AFP). — An earthquake rocked the Kuril Islands north of Japan today, Indian seismologists reported.

The shock measured 6.2 on the Richter scale, India's Samachar News Agency quoted them as saying.

Experts review action aimed to fight Mediterranean pollution

MONACO, Jan. 10 (AFP). — Representatives of 17 of the 18 countries round the Mediterranean began inter-governmental talks here yesterday to review the progress of an action plan to safeguard the pollution threatening Mediterranean resources.

In particular they will examine pollution agents originating on land, and check data from 76 research centres involving such things as hydrocarbons, pollution cycles and the role of sedimentation in pollution.

The aim is to safeguard an inland sea which, according to experts is "neither dead nor on the point of death," but seriously ill with pollution.

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AMMAN

BUSINESS SUPPLIES

Bahrain boosts expenditure 12%, move to 2-year budget

BAHRAIN, Jan. 10 (R). — Bahrain plans to operate a balanced budget this year and next although it is increasing expenditure by about 12 per cent to 280 million dinars this year, Finance Minister Abdul Karim said.

The minister said in an interview broadcast last night over by Bahrain Radio that the state was, however, abandoning the single year budget in favour of a two-year budget.

He said that the budget, approved by the emir two days ago, allocated 280 million dinars each to 1978 and 1979, but the government in practice

will be operating on the basis for a single 560 million dinars (\$1.4 billion) budget for the two years.

Last year's budget expenditure was estimated at 249.5 million dinars (\$624 million) and revenue at 235.5 million dinars (\$598 million).

Of the total for the two years, the government planned to spend 275 million dinars (about \$690 million) on capital projects of which 62 million dinars would go to housing, 66 million dinars to power projects, 47 million dinars to sewerage and drainage projects and 19 million dinars to roads.

Mr. Abdul Karim said the main principles behind the provisions were the need to return to a balanced budget in order to prepare for an expected decline in oil revenues.

Mr. Abdul Karim said projects costing 555 million dinars were being implemented now. The government had spent 280 million dinars on these projects in the past two years, planned to spend 240 million dinars on them in 1978 and 1979 and complete them at a cost of 35 million dinars in 1980.

It was also planning to implement projects costing 450 million dinars in the four years 1979-1982 which would be mainly financed by the government with the help of loans and grants from foreign sources, he added.

The minister said that the government also planned to invest 60 million dinars (\$150 million) in industrial projects this year. These included a project to gather and liquefy associated gases from Bahrain's oilfields, an aluminium extrusion plant and food production projects.

He said that Bahrain had not been affected by a recession which hit neighbouring Gulf states this year and this was proved by the growth in Bahrain's trade.

During the first nine months of 1977, Bahrain's exports, excluding oil, were worth 125.4 million dinars (\$313.5 million) compared with 91.9 million dinars (\$229 million) in the first nine months of 1976. Its imports rose to 338.7 million dinars (\$847 million) in January-September 1977 compared with 260.6 million dinars (\$661 million) in the same period of 1976.



U.S. President Jimmy Carter briefs Energy Secretary James Schlesinger prior to his week-long visit to Morocco and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Schlesinger met with the president for nearly an hour at the White House on Sunday. During his trip Mr. Schlesinger is expected to discuss a wide range of energy subjects with government officials.

INVITATION FOR RETENDERING TENDER NO. TCC 2/77 FOR THE JORDAN TELEX NETWORK

A - The TCC Tender Committee announces the cancellation of the above mentioned Tender and retendering it with the same previous conditions and specifications for the procurement, installation, testing and commissioning of equipment as a turn key project for the Jordan Telex Network. The equipment comprises the following:

1. An International Electronic Telex Exchange in Amman.
2. Twelve (12) Time Division Multiplexers:
 - a) Six (6) in Amman.
 - b) Two (2) in Irbid.
 - c) Three (3) in Aqaba.
 - d) One (1) in Zarqa.
3. Sixty six (66) Voice Frequency Carrier Telegraph (VFCT) Channels:
 - a) Thirty six (36) in Amman.
 - b) Twenty four (24) in Irbid.
 - c) Four (4) in Madaba.
 - d) Two (2) in Jerash.

Tenderers are kindly requested to offer for all three (3) items as an integrated turn key project as per the proposed plan in the specifications.

Tenderers shall include for the training of Corporation staff in the operation and maintenance of the offered equipment. Tenderers shall make proposals for this training, that is, duration, number of staff, location, etc.

B - Agents can obtain the Tender Documents from the Telecommunications Corporation in Amman for a price of (JD 100) non-refundable at the following address:

Secretary of Tender Committee -
Telecommunications Corporation,
Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.
P.O. Box 1689.

Telex 1221, Cable - Jortel Amman.
Amman - Jordan.

C - Companies which previously submitted their offers can participate in this Tender, and they are not requested to purchase the Tender Documents, unless they wish to do so. In the same time they have a choice of:

1. To abide by their offers which already were submitted and submit any amendments to their offers.
2. Submit completely new offers.

New financial proposals should be submitted including the Payment Facilities.

D - Proposals should be submitted in three copies each in an envelope sealed and its cover labelled with the words "Proposal for the Jordan Telex Network, Tender No. TCC 2/77 "Original", "1st copy" and "second copy".

E - The latest date of submission of proposals to the Telecommunications Corporation Headquarters in Amman is 14:00, Monday Feb 6, 1978.

F - The Tender Documents consist of the following materials:

1. Terms and Conditions CTE.
2. Specification CTE1 - General Requirements applicable - to all Tenderers.
3. Specifications CTE2 Requirements for an Electronic Telex Exchange in Amman, Jordan.
4. Specification CTE3 - Requirements for Voice Frequency Carrier Telegraph (VFCT) Equipment in Jordan.
5. Specification CTE4 - Requirements for the Time Division Multiplex Telegraph Equipment in Jordan.

G - All bidders shall be required to deliver Bank Guarantee of 5% of the total value of the bid as a bid bond.

H - The bid and proposal should be valid for three months as from the date of submission of proposals.

Engineer Hashem Et-Tajer
Chairman
TCC Tender Committee
Amman - Jordan.

New studies show Abu Dhabi could double oil production

ABU DHABI, Jan. 10 (R). — United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Mansur bin Zayed Al Nahyan was quoted here today as saying new studies had shown one of Abu Dhabi's oilfields capable of producing one million barrels a day of crude oil.

The minister told the semi-official newspaper Al Ittihad that the Upper Zakum offshore oilfield, which is being developed with the help of the Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (CFP), was much larger than first estimated by the companies which first operated the field.

The field was operated by Abu Dhabi Marine, a consortium of British Petroleum, CFP and a group of Japanese companies. It was producing some 50,000 barrels of oil a day.

The minister's statement meant Abu Dhabi could almost double its output, now averaging some 1.6 million barrels a day.

U.N. body meets to chart plan to deal with world economic problems

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 10 (R). — The first major meeting of a United Nations body this year takes place today, when delegates will begin charting a course for U.N. action to deal with world economic problems, especially of development.

The 54-nation Economic and Social Council, one of the three U.N. councils, has been summoned to an organisational session, which may deal with the whole question of restructuring the organisation to make it more responsive to Third World demands.

At a General Assembly session that adjourned on Dec. 21, members approved a sweeping reorganisation plan, including the establishment of a new post of U.N. director-general for development and international economic cooperation.

Officials said yesterday that if the council decides to go into this in detail, the session, originally scheduled to last only until Friday, would continue until Feb. 3.

The next substantive meeting of the council is scheduled to open on April 11. Among the tasks before the council breaks next week are the elections of a new president and four vice presidents for 1978, and to fill 123 vacancies in 11 subsidiary units.

The council is expected to pave the way for the first session, probably early next month, of the new committee of the whole U.N. membership, which is to continue in a formal U.N. context the North-South dialogue on economic development suspended since the conference adjourned in June.

Mr. Peter Janikowicz of Austria, Chairman of the Assembly's Economic Committee, has urged governments to send ministers to represent them in the committee, of the whole, so that it may become a serious policy-making body.

Both the committee chairman and the director-general are expected to be Third World nationals. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim is to name the director-general, who will rank immediately under him in the U.N. hierarchy, by the end of March.

Israel's Simcha foresees 30% rise in living cost

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (R). — Israeli Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich has forecast overall cost of living increases of around 30 per cent in a new budget for 1978/9.

Concorde springs a leak

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (AFP). — A Paris-bound Air France Concorde supersonic airliner turned back to Kennedy International Airport here yesterday, touching down with its 27 passengers three hours and 30 minutes after take-off, after an oil leak was spotted in the engine, a company spokesman stated.

The IE182 billion (\$12,774 billion) budget was presented to the Knesset yesterday and still has to win parliamentary approval. Finance Ministry sources said experts are now trying to trim it by some IE3 billion (\$193.5 million).

A major share of the budget -- IE55 billion (\$3,54 billion) -- goes on defence costs. It abolishes purchase tax and some other taxes, but value added tax is expected to increase from the current 12 to 15 per cent.

Economic News Focus

Singapore keeps booming despite world gloom

Singapore has joined the boom club with the start of the superconic Concorde service from Europe - in spite of the Malaysian government's ban on the aircraft operating over its territory. The prestige airliner is bound to bring business to Singapore which is already doing very nicely. Last year, while world trade slumped, Singapore achieved a real growth rate of seven per cent.

By Tony Scott

SINGAPORE -- The opening of the superconic Concorde service from Europe - in spite of the Malaysian government's ban on the aircraft operating over its territory. The prestige airliner is bound to bring business to Singapore which is already doing very nicely. Last year, while world trade slumped, Singapore achieved a real growth rate of seven per cent.

Before the 1973 Arab oil crisis, the economy of this tiny diamond-shaped island with its two-and-a-half million people squeezed into only 235 square miles (602 sq. kms) was already expanding at a thrilling and regular 15 to 16 per cent a year.

Since then, while most of the rest of the world has struggled against a crippling combination of stagnant trade and domestic inflation, Singapore has gone on growing.

Last year, while total world trade slumped by ten per cent, Singapore produced a real growth rate of seven per cent. Even more remarkably, the consumer price index, any nation's most crucial indicator of inflation, actually dropped by two per cent for the second year in succession.

Unemployment, according to Finance Minister Hon Sui Sen in his budget speech recently, dropped from 30,500 at the beginning of 1976 to 30,750 at the end.

How has it been done? Hon

Sui Sen credits, not unnaturally, the economic policies of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's People's Action Party.

He told the Singapore Parliament, all of whose 69 seats are held by the PAP: "We have laid a sound foundation for sustained growth through the five basic elements of our long-term development strategy: Manpower, science and technology, infrastructure, taxation, and promotion."

"My ministry... predicts that, on this strategy and barring major upheavals in the world economy, we should be able to achieve an annual growth of six to eight per cent."

Industrialists and businessmen I spoke to had no quarrel with that optimism. But most focused on manpower as the platform's crucial plank.

For Singapore, with no raw materials of its own and a tiny labour force, has made quality rather than quantity the core of its economic aims. It has gone for the "brain gain" of high-technology capital-intensive industries and services, rather than for the labour-intensive manufacturing style which dominates most Third World economies.

As Tom Merfield, a British expatriate building contractor in Singapore, explained: "The aim is to make Singaporeans the most sophisticated workers in the world. If you want to set up a low-paying textile

mill here, the government will say no."

"But a top-quality, high-paying electronics factory or a sophisticated off-shore institution, they will say yes."

"As a result, the ordinary people aren't just becoming highly trained; they are becoming highly paid as well."

For similar reasons, multinational corporations which have created controversy elsewhere are finding an open-arms welcome in Singapore.

"They provide us with both technology and a new capital investment," a government spokesman said. "And of course they create more jobs for our people."

"Add to this emphasis a growing tourist and conven-

tion business, highly developed financial services, along with the almost totally free movement of money and goods, and you have Singapore's recipe for economic success."

The fruits of this success seem to be fairly well spread. Poorer families can buy their own apartments in the government's giant low-cost housing projects for between 8,000 and 10,000 Singapore dollars (U.S. \$3,100 to U.S. \$4,200).

And even with relatively low wages (seven workers out of ten in Singapore earn less than S \$400 -- about U.S. \$170 -- a month, it means that most people can eventually afford their own home.

Small businessmen are happy too. Hussein Ali, a Malay

who runs boutique and camera stalls in Singapore's Chinatown, says: "The free trade policy means much faster movement of stock from port to shelves. Which means lower storage costs and minimal administrative overheads."

"So people like me can sell at prices sufficiently attractive to make most foreigners pull out their travellers' cheques without even trying to bargain, and still make a good profit."

Profitability carries a price, though. In Singapore's case, the price is large numbers of the government's political and journalistic opponents in jail and severely circumscribed freedom for trade unions.

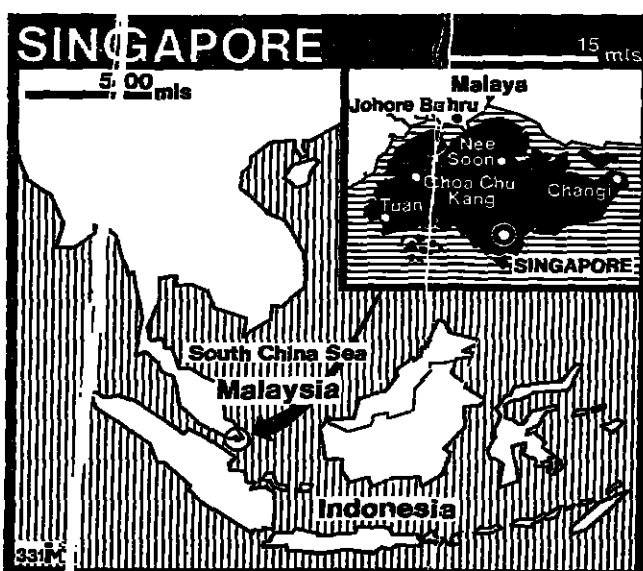
Instead, wages are controlled through the "advisory powers" of the National Wages Council, and labour is kept in line by the government-backed National Trades Union Congress.

There are social restrictions too. Some, by foreign standards, bizarre. One bans Singaporean students from taking their exams if they have long (collar-length) hair.

Whether the price is worth paying is open to question. But Singapore's middle class and the international firms which have helped make the island the Switzerland of the Far East seem to have no doubts.

Tom Merfield summed up their feeling. "The big thing about Singapore is that it has stable and good leadership," he said. "The ministers are all experts in their field. Their record proves it, and I think, will go on proving it."

"Whatever happens to the economies of the rest of the world, they are smart enough to make sure that Singapore stays ahead."



Oil price
will stay
frozen at
year, say
Yamani

RIYADH, Jan. 10 (AFP). — Crude oil prices will stay frozen throughout this year, Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Yamani said here today.

He told newsmen that the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) wanted an extraordinary conference on the subject but that a meeting was therefore virtually ruled out, he said.

Of the Venezuelan proposal for a rise of benefits to the Third World, Mr. Yamani said a decision had been reached that Saudi Arabia was against a rise.

He confirmed that the OPEC Group had put forward a plan for increased Saudi production but he said the idea had been neither discussed nor approved. Saudi Arabia was responsible for production planning.

Full control of Aramco, the state would take, shortly after one or two other meetings.

Saudi Arabia was expected to announce a new production plan and its own production would remain about 5.5 million barrels a day. Output should depend on international demand. If none of the oil countries wanted rebates, output should automatically fall, but this not the case, he said.

Mr. Yamani expressed concern about the dollar's depreciation which led to financial losses. He thought it probable that oil would be paid in terms of a basket of currencies in the future. The Economic Committee of OPEC would submit a report on this to the OPEC conference in Nigeria late in June.

He also said his country would continue investing in mining. Some European refineries were old and the Saudis would be sophisticated and flexible as regards products.

Soviet plane introduce 1st class service at 20% extra

MOSCOW, Jan. 10 (AFP). — The Soviet state-owned airline Aeroflot has introduced first-class service for passengers willing to pay 20 per cent extra for quality food and speedy baggage-handling.

The Moscow edition of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said the service was introduced on Jan. 1, six months after an overall 20 per cent rise on fares on international flights.

The first-class cabin contains 12 of the 160 seats on the Tupolev 154 jetliner, one of three of its most popular models. First-class passengers are also seated furthest from the plane's noisy engines.

Sticky mess

LIEGE, Belgium, Jan. 10 (AFP). — Traffic in the main street here today literally came to a sticky stop when a runaway lorry crashed into a building.

Several tons of glue covered the roadway. Firemen took several hours to clear away the sticky mess.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian dinar
Buying/Selling
315.00/317.00
U.S. dollar 606.00/610.00
W. German mark 147.30/148.20
Swiss franc 156.50/157.40
French franc 68.80/69.20
Italian lire (for every 100) 36.10/36.30
Japanese yen (for every 100) 135.90/138.00
Dutch guilder 137.60/138.00
Belgian franc (for every ten) 85.40/86.00
Swedish crown 67.00/67.40

U.S., Sudan plot to topple Ethiopia's regime, says paper

BEIRUT, Jan. 10 (AFP). — The existence of a new American strategy to bring down Lt.-Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam's revolutionary regime in Ethiopia, using Sudan as a springboard for attacks by dissident groups, was alleged here today by the pro-Libyan daily Al Kifah Al 'Arabi in a special report from San'a, North Yemen, the paper said. Sudan had accepted a key role in the American plan and was already mustering Ethiopian groups opposed to Lt.-Col. Mengistu's ruling Military Administrative Council, known as the Dergue.

Citing well-informed sources in the North Yemen capital, Al Kifah Al 'Arabi said a former Ethiopian army Col., Tassew Desia, who has lived in San'a since he was sacked by the Dergue last year, had a meeting there on Sunday with the head of Sudanese military intelligence, Maj. Khalifa Karar.

The two men later left for Khartoum, the paper said. It said Col. Tassew Desia's role would be to contact former Ethiopian officers loyal to the former regime of the late Emperor Haile Selassie, who was overthrown by the Dergue in 1974.

The group would have its headquarters in Khartoum and would shortly be receiving West German and American military supplies through Egypt, which would then be moved into Ethiopia through the Wollega Province on the border with Sudan, the paper said.

Col. Tassew, a former Dergue member sent as ambassador to San'a following the emperor's fall, had established his contacts "with the outside world" from his embassy in North Yemen, it said.

The Dergue dismissed him when the true nature of his activities there came to light since, Al Kifah Al 'Arabi said. Col. Tassew had made frequent trips to Saudi Arabia, Oman and Iran, the paper added.

Somali-Ethiopian battle

In a separate development, the Somali-Abo Liberation Front reported in its bulletin, published in Mogadishu, today that its guerrillas have killed 137 Ethiopian troops and wounded over 100 in a battle at Bitic, 15 kms. west of Negel, capital of the Sidamo Province.

"Our gallant freedom fighters also destroyed a military truck and captured huge quantities of arms and ammunition from the defeated enemy troops," the bulletin added. It did not give details of front losses.

The front is fighting for control of Ethiopia's Sidamo and Balow Provinces which have sizeable Somali-speaking populations.



Soviet Olympic gymnastics champion Olga Korbut and the soloist of the Pesnary pop group, Leonid Sorokovitch, were married in Moscow on Monday. (AP wirephoto)

Ecevit predicts hard times as a result of "ruined economy"

ANKARA, Jan. 10 (Agencies). — New Turkish Premier Bulent Ecevit today complained he had inherited an economy in ruins, and warned of tough days ahead as a result, Turkish State Radio reported.

Mr. Ecevit, who last Thursday took power from a three-party coalition, led by Mr. Suileyman Demirel, told a meeting of his Republican People's Party (RPP) that the previous government had left behind a legacy of "unimaginable irresponsibility," the radio said.

"For a time we have to live through hard times," he continued. "But with our nation's great strength — with the RPP's unity, we can rebuild a strong state structure in place of this very soon."

Mr. Ecevit's government inherited a massive foreign trade deficit and a chronic shortage of foreign exchange.

Cypriot issue

Turning to foreign policy, Mr. Ecevit said the new administration had already started to resolve some of the stalemates.

United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim left here today for Tehran after what he described as constructive talks on resuming discussions between Greek and Turkish communities on the divided island of Cyprus.

The third focal point for the government is the question of political violence, which took more than 200 lives in 1977.

Mr. Ecevit said the government was doing its utmost to get rid of some of the centres of violence in state organisations and in the universities.

"We will make the streets safe again with no threats of being shot, and makes schools places where education can be

conducted in peace," he promised.

The government programme, to be announced on Thursday, will be debated on Sunday and put to a vote of confidence next Tuesday, according to the parliamentary timetable.

He is expected to have no difficulty in mustering more than the 226 votes required for an absolute majority in the National Assembly's lower house.

Meanwhile, former Premier Demirel said here last night that the American Congressional ban on arms sales to Turkey is the biggest obstacle to settlement of the Cypriot problem.

The embargo's aims to weaken Turkey's defensive strength and the continuation of this weakness was more important to Greece than a Cypriot solution, he added.

Mr. Demirel was speaking after a meeting with U.S. Secretary General Dr. Waldheim.

Fighting appears almost over between Vietnam, Cambodia

BANGKOK, Jan. 10 (AFP). — Fighting has virtually ceased in Cambodia where Vietnamese forces, estimated at eight divisions, have established themselves in positions ten to 40 kms. inside Cambodian territory, enabling them to defend the Vietnamese border.

This was the analysis of the situation made tonight by Thai specialists and diplomatic sources having at their disposal accurate electronic information-gathering devices.

The Vietnamese confirmed this analysis when a source close to a delegation led by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh told AFP in Bangkok today: "We have no intention of seizing Phnom Penh or any Cambodian province. We are compelled to ensure the protection of our border by these means." Mr. Trinh is currently in Thailand on an official visit.

The Cambodian Radio, meanwhile, hinted that the war was over or was about to end. It devoted today's broadcast to a meeting of Phnom Penh workers celebrating "the Great Victory of Jan. 6," which is Cambodia's version of the start of the border clashes with Vietnam.

Moscow slams Brzezinski

In Moscow, yesterday, the Soviet news agency Tass accused Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, National Security Adviser to U.S. President Carter, of trying to poison relations between the Soviet Union and China over the Vietnamese-Cambodian conflict.

Mr. Brzezinski had interpreted the dispute as "a war by proxy between China and the Soviet Union."

Tass said that he was on of "certain Americans" who circulated "this false story of indirect war between these two countries," thus demonstrating a desire for tense relations to exist between Moscow and Peking.

Israel jails U.S. woman for "spying"

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10 (AP). — An Israeli court yesterday sentenced a 22-year-old American woman named Terry Fleener to 18 months in prison for spying.

The court found Miss Fleener guilty of her own admission of "conspiracy to supply information" to an unnamed enemy and "services to a hostile organization."

The trial, held in camera, was attended by Miss Fleener's mother. The court forbade publication of details of charges against the accused.

She was arrested last Oct. 25 when she arrived at Tel Aviv International Airport. She has been held in custody since.

Court witness accuses Bhutto of 2 murders

LAHORE, Jan. 10 (AFP). — A para-military Federal Security Force was ordered to murder a retired judge and a film actor in 1974, a high court trying former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was told today. The statement was made by Mr. Ghulam Hussain, a prosecution witness in the murder case against Mr. Bhutto. Mr. Hussain, who was an inspector in the Federal Security Force set up by Mr. Bhutto and disbanded after his overthrow from office, told the court that the force was asked to eliminate Justice Jamat Hussain Rizvi and film actor Muhammad Ali. Mr. Bhutto is being tried on charges that he had ordered an ambush by the force in 1974 in which the father of a dissident member of the National Assembly lost his life. Meanwhile, the court today rescinded its order appointing advocate D. M. Awan as counsel for Mr. Bhutto at state expense following the former prime minister's decision not to have any counsel for his defence. Mr. Awan said Mr. Bhutto had refused to give him any instructions.

Judge rejects Gandhi's appeal

NEW DELHI, Jan. 10 (AFP). — The Shah Commission of Inquiry into the alleged excesses carried out during the emergency period under former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi today rejected her counsel's appeal that it is not empowered to question her during its present hearing. Chief Justice J. C. Shah noted that Mrs. Gandhi had so far failed to submit a statement over 11 alleged excesses involving her during the 1975-76 emergency. Frank Anthony, counsel for Mrs. Gandhi, was given until tomorrow to consider the ruling. Mrs. Gandhi has so far failed to make any statement to the commission, leaving her case to be argued by her counsel. According to newspaper reports here today the former premier may later decide to boycott the commission.

U.S. eye-witness reports: This is Israel's settlement policy

Editor's note: The latest controversy about Israeli plans to strengthen existing Jewish settlements in the occupied Sinai Peninsula of Egypt has again focused attention on Israel's ten-year-old settlement policy throughout all the occupied Arab territories. One of the best in-depth studies and analyses of Israel's settlement policy that we have come across was done last year by an American political scientist-researcher named Dr. Ann M. Lesch, who spent over two years living in occupied Jerusalem while doing several research studies for an American Quaker group, the American Friends Service Committee.

Based on her extensive research, she has written what is widely considered to be the definitive article to date on Israel's settlements. That article appears in the current (Autumn 1977) issue of the Journal of Palestine Studies, along with a series of detailed maps pin-pointing all settlements as of September 1977.

Dr. Lesch was called upon in September to testify during hearings held by the U.S. House of Representatives International Affairs Subcommittee on the Near East, and the Jordan Times is publishing the full transcript of her testimony, with all maps, in a five-part series starting today, because we feel it provides relevant and timely information that will help the impartial observer judge the full effects that the Israeli settlements have on the situation in the Middle East.

By Dr. Ann M. Lesch

I. Settlement policy over the past decade

I held the position of Associate Middle East Representative for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) from October 1974 until June 1977. The AFSC is a non-profit organization whose work is based on the principles of non-violence and social justice. Its programmes in the United States and abroad seek to remedy social, economic and political problems by peaceful means. At the end of World War II the AFSC tried to help alleviate the sufferings of the Jewish and other displaced persons. In 1948 the AFSC was called on to help the Palestinian refugees in Gaza. The AFSC upholds the right of the Jewish and Palestinian peoples to national self-determination and, recognizing the depth of bitterness and anguish on both sides, seeks to assist them in obtaining their rights and achieving mutual recognition.

During my two-and-a-half years with the AFSC, I lived in Jerusalem and travelled extensively in Israel and the territories occupied in June 1967. As one aspect of my work, I observed the changes taking place in the occupied territories and the effects of these changes on the prospects for a peace settlement. One of the most visible changes has been the establishment of Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Sinai. I interviewed residents of a dozen settlements, collected newspaper articles, and consulted official records. I also noted the effect of settlements on the attitudes of Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza.

As of June 1977, there were more than 90 settlements in the occupied territories: 25 on the Golan Heights, 22 in the Gaza Strip and Sinai, 36 on the West Bank, and a dozen residential quarters in East Jerusalem. (One more settlement — Yattir — was due to be founded last week (Ed. note: early September) near Yatta village on the West Bank. Nearly 50,000 Israelis live in East Jerusalem, but elsewhere the actual number of settlers remains relatively small in proportion to the Arab population: on the Golan, about 2,500 settlers and 13,000 Syrians; in Gaza and Sinai, approximately 3,200 Israelis to 540,000 Arabs; and on the West Bank, some 4,200 Israelis and over 860,000 Palestinians (plus over 80,000 Arabs in East Jerusalem).

Pressure for placing settlements in the territories began immediately after the June war. That summer a group of young Israelis founded a settlement on the Golan (Merom Golan), expressing their determination that the heights should remain under Israeli control. (See Appendix A). Similarly, children of the pre-1948 settlers at Kfar Etzion persuaded the government to let them rebuild that West Bank settlement in September 1967. A group of religious nationalists went to the nearby town of Hebron during Passover 1968 and stayed there, despite initial government disapproval. Hebron had held an ancient Jewish community until 1928, when 60 people were killed there during an Arab uprising. No Jews dared to remain in the town after that, and therefore the Israeli gov-

ernment, having gained control over Hebron, found it particularly difficult to prohibit Jews from living there. The government finally gave them permission to build their own residential quarter (Kiryat Arba) on the northeast side of Hebron. This solidly-constructed quarter now houses some 1,500 people.

The first official government initiative came in June 1967 when some 180 Arab houses adjoining the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem were demolished, in order to open a plaza in front of the wall. Soon after, the rest of the adjacent Jewish Quarter was expropriated. Some 6,500 Arabs, both tenants and landowners, were removed from some 600 buildings over the next several years. Most of the houses were demolished and new ones built in their place for the new Israeli residents.

From 1967 to 1970 the government's settlement priorities were 1) the southern part of the Golan Heights, where a dozen agricultural settlements were established, and 2) the north side of East Jerusalem, where the Ramat Eshkol and French Hill Housing Estates linked the pre-1967 residential quarter of Sepheria to the university enclave on Mount Scopus, which had been inaccessible for Israelis from 1948 to 1967. Both sets of settlements had an acknowledged strategic purpose: the government signalled its intention to prevent the Syrians from returning to the heights overlooking the Sea of Galilee, from which they could direct their guns down at the Israeli fishermen and farmers below. The Jerusalem suburbs were popularly dubbed the "Rogers Plan Housing," indicating that their construction sought to pre-empt American pressure on Israel to leave East Jerusalem.

From 1970 until the October 1973 war, settlement priorities lay in the Jordan Valley, the northern Sinai coast, and Jerusalem. The Jordan Valley runs parallel to the Jordan River, which is the cease-fire line between Israel and Jordan. In the late '60s Palestinian guerrillas staged frequent raids across the river. By 1970 the Israeli military forces had devised sophisticated electronic fences to detect infiltrators and, in any case, the events in Jordan in September 1970 ended their raids across the river. The Israelis established, in 1968, three para-military settlements at the north and south ends of the valley (Meihoa and Kalia) and at a key crossing point in the centre (Argaman). But it was only in 1970, after the military de-

ment had been contained, that settlement accelerated in that valley. Similarly, the establishment of agricultural settlements below the Gaza Strip began in 1971, after armed resistance in the strip had been crushed. Moreover, the government's decision to build a town (Yamit) in that area was taken in December 1972, only four months after Egyptian President Anwar Sadat expelled the Soviet advisors, and therefore at a time when the Israeli government felt relieved of any significant military and diplomatic pressure. (See Appendix A). In Jerusalem, the Gilo and East Talpit suburbs, south and southeast of the city, respectively, were begun in 1973, and two new northern suburbs (Neve Ya'acov and Ramot) were also initiated that year.

Settlement construction abated for several months after the October war. But construction of Yamit resumed in mid 1974 and four new para-mil-

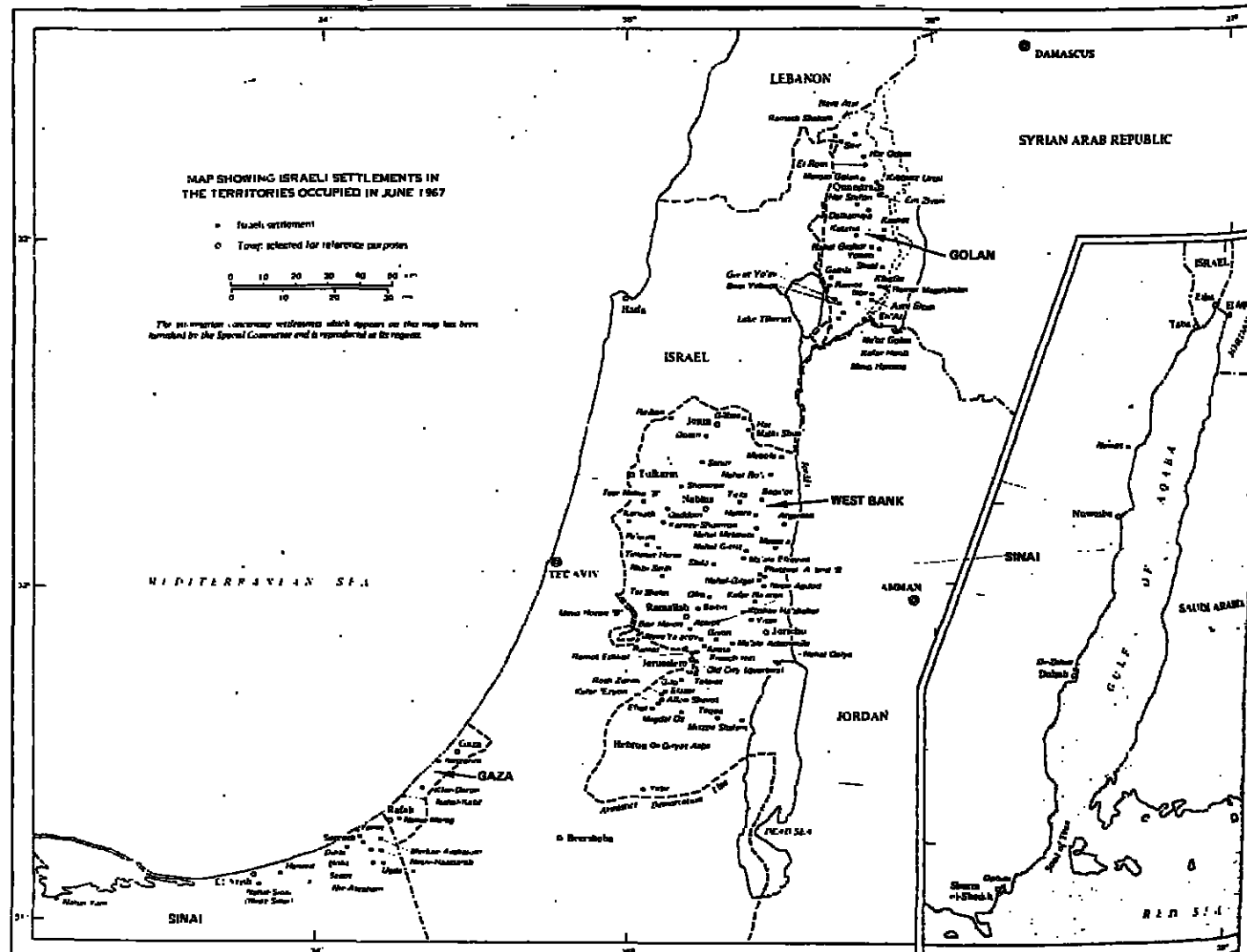
itary (nahal) outposts were established near it (Davar, Aug. 21, 1974). In January 1975, the government decided to accelerate settlement in that northern Sinai region, signalling its intention to control permanently the coastal strip from Al Arish to the Gaza Strip (Jerusalem Post, Jan. 15, 1975).

On the Golan, several northern settlements (Merom Golan, Ein Zivan, Neve Ativ, and Al Ram) had been overrun by the Syrian army. They were rebuilt on a larger scale than before. Moreover, in late 1974 the government decided to construct a town (Katzrin) in the central Golan, in order to close the "gap" in settlements there, according to the director of the Jewish Agency's Galilee District (Jerusalem Post, Dec. 4, 1974). In January 1975 the Housing Ministry began to clear housing sites for the town, whose population was projected to reach 20,000 when complete. (Jerusalem Post, Jan. 29, 1975, and see Appendix A). The settlers on the Golan attached major political significance to the government decision to build this town, which would be surrounded by eight small industrially-based villages. Moreover, on Nov. 30, 1975, the government approved retroactively two "illegal" settlements on the Golan and initiated four new ones. The Israeli decision was a riposte to the United Nations, which had agreed that same day to let the Palestine Liberation Organisation participate in the U.N. Security Council debate on the Palestinian issue the next January, thereby according to Syria's condition for renewing the mandate of the U.N. forces on the Golan.

On the West Bank, settlement in the Jordan Valley moved ahead steadily after the October war. A new road — called the "Limit of Settlement Road" — was constructed in the hills above the valley, and a second tier of settle-

ments was begun along it, parallel to the ones on the valley. Moreover, additional sites were made to Gush Etzi and Kiryat Arba, and the government approved the establishment of an industrial zone at Ma'ale Adumim, astride the main Jerusalem-Jericho highway. This decision, taken late 1974, would have the effect of splitting the north half of the West Bank in two. Constant pressure from Gush Emunim to establish settlements led the Ministry of Defence to approve a "workcamp" at Ofra, east of Ramallah, and to acquiesce to the presence of settlers at Kadum, west of Nablus. The May 1976 government resolution that the Kadum settlers should be relocated a less heavily populated site was never implemented, the settlers refused all the alternative sites that were offered.

(To be continued tomorrow)



This map shows Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories up to the beginning of November, 1977. The map was published by the United Nations' Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of Occupied Territories, a committee set up by the U.N.'s General Assembly.

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